



Data:

We now have **257** high schools and ATCs registered for IT Academy in KY!

Make sure you are also a testing site with Certiport so your students can certify!

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Barren Co. is proudly recognizing their students who certify

Photo from Cindy Jackson, teacher at Barren Co High



Kentucky IT Academy and STLP



This year's state STLP competition will be April 22 at Rupp Arena in Lexington. We are planning on hosting an IT Academy event for students that day; so keep watching for details on how to get your students involved. The event will be a "qualifier" for Certiport's World Champion Competition where students can win cash scholarships. At the close of the event, we will also recognize the top certifying IT Academy schools. Associate Commissioner David Couch and other dignitaries will be there to showcase the great things you are accomplishing in your school.



In order to ensure your program receives the latest program information and updates as well as any special offers we may be sending by mail, please update your institution profile today! In the upper right hand corner of the [IT Academy member site](#), you will see your name and a drop down option to edit profile information. Please review the information and make any required updates.



The next Microsoft EduCast, *Minecraft in the Classroom: Game-Based Learning Takes Off*, will broadcast live online on November 10, 8 - 9 a.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST) and November 12, 4 - 5 p.m. (PST).

Minecraft is undeniably one of the hottest games in education - whether you are new to the game or a Minecraft Master, we will have the Minecraft Team and current educators using the game tell you how to get started, how Minecraft is used to teach different subjects and scenarios, and how to take it to the next level. The free monthly EduCast series brings together academic leaders, innovative institutions and pioneering educators. Tune in live online to get questions answered directly from presenters and share thoughts with peers around the world; or watch on your time, on-demand, shortly after the event. [Register today!](#)

Monthly "Office Hours"

One Tuesday per month, 3:30 – 4:30 ET, Microsoft, Certiport and Laura will be on a Skype call for you to ask questions, get ideas and collaborate. If you need access to the link to the call, please email Laura.

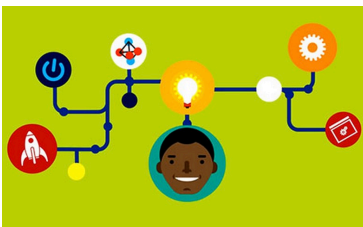
In order to provide visibility within your school and in your community, the IT Academy Program has created new marketing resources designed for student and parents to help them understand the benefits of IT Academy participation in student readiness for college and career.

[Check out](#) these new resources on the IT Academy member site under the marketing tab.



Check out the updated ["Get Started Video Series"](#) on the [IT Academy \(ITA\) YouTube Channel](#). Topics include a brief intro to ITA, how to use ITA resources in the classroom, and detailed how-to guides about using the ITA Online Learning platform.

Certiport:



Weekly Webinars Available

Did you know that Certiport hosts weekly webinars on Portal Account Management and using Console 8? Visit the [CATC Training Session page](#) to join us for first time training or for a refresher course!



Spotlight:



Highlands High School, Ft. Thomas

Story by Jaime Richey, Teacher and Program Administrator at Highlands High

We are currently in our third year of offering certification at Highlands High School. Each year my passing rate is increasing for a couple of reasons. The most important reason is, I make sure my students are ready for the test before letting them test. Some students may never be ready, so I don't put them in a situation for failure.

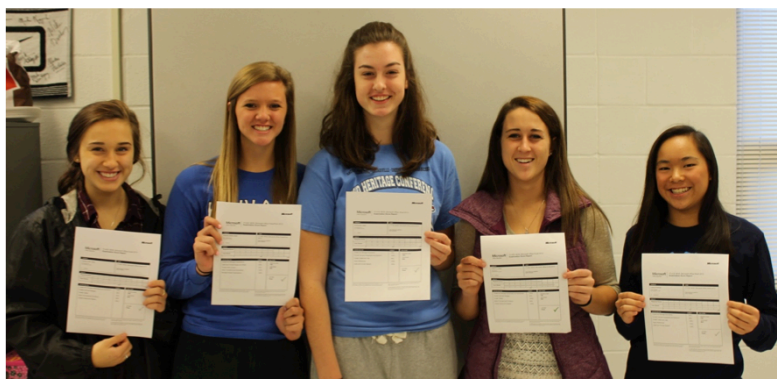
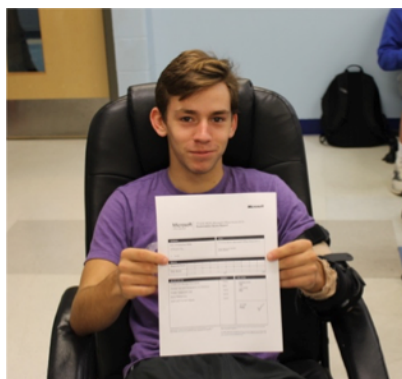
If your passing rate isn't great, don't get discouraged. Keep working and talking to other teachers. At our summer conference, I always go to the sessions that someone is presenting on certification tips. I'm never afraid to email or call other teachers that are a testing center to see what they are doing. Be positive with your students about this and talk up the certification test.

Here is a little sneak peak into my classroom. I spend about 8-10 weeks working in our Shelly Cashman textbook, IT Academy, and using the G-Metrix practice software for one specific certification unit. While using the textbook, I use a lecture-based delivery with hands-on activities to engage students. While using the textbook, I also incorporate the IT Academy to help reinforce. After working with the textbook and IT Academy, I then have my students work with G-Metrix. I have found the more resources one can use, the better the students perform and understand the concepts. I repeat these steps for all the certification units.

Here's what some of my students say:

"Mrs. Richey really makes sure we are ready to test before we take the certification tests. I enjoy working with G-Metrix because it is so much like the test." – Eric Miller, senior

"We use our textbooks, IT Academy, and G-Metrix to get ready for the test. I think PowerPoint is the easiest certification test followed by Word and then Excel. Excel is the hardest one of all!" – Maddy Hope, senior



Data Points for November:

The number of schools signed up for membership: 258

The number of registered testing centers: 215

The number of Excel certifications for the month: 113

The number of Excel certification year-to-date: 182

The number of MTA certifications for the month: 5

The number of MTA certifications year-to-date: 64

The number of online courses started: 20,894

The number of online courses completed: 6,145

The top 10 certifying sites:

1. Clark Co. ATC	6. Breckinridge Co. ATC
2. Dixie Heights High, Kenton Co.	7. Simon Kenton High, Kenton Co.
3. Larry A. Ryle High, Boone Co.	8. Hart Co. High
4. Highlands High, Ft. Thomas Ind.	9. Calloway Co. High
5. Bath Co. High	10. Boone Co. High

Is your school listed here?

MOS Master Certifications

We have two people so far who have earned MOS Master Certification in Kentucky! They are:

- Dylan Tungate – Technology Integration Specialist in the Marion County school district
- Michael Smeltzer – Student at Dixie Heights High School in Kenton Co.

CONGRATULATIONS to both of them!

**Follow KY IT
Academy on
Twitter**

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KDE's [KY ITA](#) Website!

Check out the Microsoft Resources folder and the Certiport Resources folder - they both have lots of "How To" documents that will help you navigate the IT Academy site. There is also a new webinar available: "[Webinar for the New IT Academy Website](#)" you may want to watch.

As always, if you need any assistance with your school's program, please reach out to Laura, Megan, or Ann. We are here to help make your year as successful as possible!